

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: TSPA, BE

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL MEETING - JULY 31

REF: BRUSSELS 4292

1. SUMMARY: EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE (ESC) MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD ON JULY 31 IN BRUSSELS REACHED AGREEMENT ON FINANCING THREE MAIN ESC PROJECTS (SPACE LAB, L3S AND MAROTS SATELLITE), SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION OF ITALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS, ESC ALSO AGREED TO FORM UNIFIED EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY AS OF APRIL 1, 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. ESC MINISTERIAL MEETING RESUMED ON JULY 31, AS HAD BEEN AGREED AT INCONCLUSIVE JULY 12 MEETING, TO DECIDE ON FINANCING FOR MAJOR ESC PROJECTS. MAJOR PROBLEM QUICKLY EMERGED WHEN
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ITALIAN DELEGATION (NOT HEADED BY MINISTER) ANNOUNCED THAT IT COULD

MAKE NO COMMITMENT ON PROJECTS BECAUSE OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT DECISION TO POSTPONE ALL NEW INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS. ITALIANS SAID COMMITMENTS ON PROJECTS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BY MID-SEPTEMBER. ANNOUNCEMENT CAUSED CONSIDERABLE STIR AMONG OTHER DELEGATIONS, WHO REQUESTED ITALIANS TO CONTACT ROMZ FOR DEFINITE ANSWER. THIS WAS DONE BUT NO COMMITMENT OBTAINED. WHILE SOME SMALLER DELEGATIONS (DANISH AND NORWEGIAN) ALSO UNPREPARED FOR FIRM COMMITMENTS, ITALIAN CASE BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT SINCE GOI HAD PREVIOUSLY UNOFFICIALLY SUGGESTED FINANCING 20 PERCENT OF SPACE LAB AND FOUR TO FIVE PERCENT OF L3S LAUNCHER COSTS. CHIEF OF DELEGATION GAVE HIS "PERSONAL" VIEW THAT ITALY WOULD EVENTUALLY AGREE TO THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER, AND ESC MINISTERS DECIDED SIMPLY TO ADD IN ITALIAN AND OTHER UNDECIDED COUNTRIES' CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF COVERING PROJECT COSTS.

3. EVEN COUNTING THESE CONTRIBUTIONS, HOWEVER, GAPS REMAINED AND ESC PRESIDENT HANIN HELD SERIES OF SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH NATIONAL DELEGATION. BY 2300 HOURS HANIN SUCCEEDED IN ACHIEVING FULL FINANCING FOR ALL THREE PROJECTS. AS RUMORED EARLIER (SEE REFTTEL), ONE MAIN ROADBLOCK REMOVED WHEN BRITISH ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN FRENCH L3S LAUNCHER PROJECT IF FRENCH WOULD RECIPROCATATE IN MARITIME NAVIGATIONAL SATELLITE (MAROTS) PROJECT.

4. AT REQUEST OF ITALY, ESC WILL ASK U.S. TO DELAY BRIEFLY DEADLINE FOR SIGNING GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ON POST-APOLLO COOPERATION UNTIL AUGUST 18. OTHER COUNTRIES MAY SIGN EARLIER, BUT UNDER RESERVE PENDING OFFICIAL ITALIAN DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN ESC PROJECTS.

5. FOLLOWING ARE LISTS OF COUNTRY PARTICIPATION IN THREE ESC PROJECTS:

A. SPACE LAB (PERCENTAGE)

FRG	52.55
BELGIUM	4.2
SPAIN	2.8
FRANCE	10.0
UK	6.3
SWITZERLAND	1.05
ITALY AND OTHERS	21.0

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B. L3S (PERCENTAGE AND CURRENCY)

FRG	DM 40 MILLION ANNUALLY FOR 4 YEARS AND DM 40 MILLION PLUS REVALUATION FOR 4 MORE YEARS.
BELGIUM	5 PERCENT
DENMARK	0.5 PERCENT
SPAIN	2.0 PERCENT
FRANCE	62.5 PERCENT

UK	11.25 MILLION ACCOUNTING UNITS
SWITZERLAND	1.15 PERCENT
NETHERLANDS	1.0 PERCENT
ITALY AND OTHERS	6.0 PERCENT

C. MAROTS (PERCENTAGE)

UK	56
FRG	20
FRANCE	15
BELGIUM	1
ITALY AND OTHERS	8

6. PRIOR TO ADJOURNMENT LATE IN EVENING, ESC DECIDED TO
CREATE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY AS OF APRIL 1, 1974. BOOCHEVER

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